



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

MICHAEL A. RAMOS
District Attorney

Contact person: District Attorney Michael A. Ramos 909-382-3660
Date: April 30, 2008

Secretary of CDCR Meets with District Attorney

San Bernardino, CA – Today, Secretary of California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation James E. Tilton met with San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael A. Ramos, his Assistant District Attorneys and his Chief Deputy District Attorneys to discuss AB 900. This bill, which deals with prison reform and prisoner re-entry into the community, provides resources to improve public safety by reducing the rates at which inmates re-victimize communities and return to prison. Tilton explained to the group his plans to overhaul the current prisoner release system while dealing with current budget constraints through various cost-saving programs, which work to rehabilitate the prison population.

Part of his plan proposes "re-entry facilities," one of which is planned for San Bernardino County. It is in these facilities that many of the training and apprenticeship programs will be available to inmates prior to their release into the community. The hope is to reduce recidivism by providing inmates with the skills and jobs to function as productive members of the community.

"This county is challenging the rest of the state," Tilton commented, referring to San Bernardino County's willingness to participate with the re-entry facility plans. District Attorney Ramos stated, "This plan is critical to our office as we have the highest prison commitment per capita in the state. However, we recognize the impact this has on the prison system and we want to help in any way we can."

###